UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/670,981	09/26/2000	Vellore T. Vetrivelkumaran	MS1-658US	4393

22801   7590   06/17/2004

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EXAMINER
QURESHI, SHABANA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2155	7

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/670,981	VETRIVELKUMARAN ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**
	Shabana Qureshi	2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 September 2000*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-51* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-4,7-10,12,13,16-21,23,24,26-28,31-34,37,38,40-42,45-48 and 51* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *5, 6, 11, 14, 15, 22, 25, 29, 30, 34, 35-56, 39, 43, 44, 49, and 50* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *6*.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-51 are pending in this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999

(AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002

do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an

international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the

reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA

35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 12-13, 16-21, 23-24, 26-28, 31-34, 37-38, 40-42, 45-48, and 51 are

rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lim et al (US Patent No. 5,884,024,

hereinafter Lim et al).

With regards to claims 1 and 45, Lim et al. teach an Internet protocol (IP) filter,

comprising processor-executable instructions that, when executed on a processor, perform the

following steps:

- monitoring Internet protocol data packets transmitted from one or more clients to a

    server (abstract; column 2, lines 55-59, relay agent monitors IP packets in network);

- obtaining a network address from an IP data packet transmitted by a client (column 3, lines 25-27); and

- processing IP data packets from the client if a Network address that is to uniquely associated with the client is stored in a client table (column 3, lines 23-35).

As per claims 2 and 46, Lim et al. teach the Internet protocol filter as recited in claim 1, further comprising processor-executable instructions that, when executed on a processor, perform the following steps:

- if the Network address is not stored in the client table, retrieving a client limit value from a client limit field, the client limit value indicating a maximum number of unique clients for which IP data packets can be processed (column 10, lines 35-67);

- processing IP data packets from the client if the number of Network addresses in the client table is less than the client limit value (column 10, lines 35-67); and

- storing the Network address in the client table (column 10, lines 35-67).

As per claims 3 and 47, Lim et al. teach the Internet protocol filter as recited in claim 1, wherein the client is a first client and the Network address is a first Network address, the Internet protocol filter further comprising processor-executable instructions that, when executed on a processor, perform the following steps:

- if the first Network address is not stored in the client table, retrieving a client limit value from a client limit field, the client limit value indicating a maximum number of unique clients for which IP data packets can be processed (column 10, lines 35-67);

- if the number of Network addresses in the client table is greater than or equal to the client limit value, determining if the first client is represented in the to client table by

a second Network address that is different from the first Network address (column 10,

lines 35-67); and

- processing IP data packets from the first client if the second Network address is found

  in the client table (column 10, lines 35-67).

As per claims 4 and 48, Lim et al. teach the Internet protocol filter as recited in claim 3,

further comprising processor-executable instructions that, when executed on a processor,

perform the

following steps:

- removing the second Network address from the client table (column 9, lines 13-22);

  and

- inserting the first Network address into the client table (column 9, lines 13-22).

As per claims 7 and 26, Lim et al. teach a method, comprising:

- detecting when a current client attempts to establish a connection with a server

  (column 2, lines 44-51);

- determining a unique client identifier that is associated with the current client;

- determining if a total number of previous clients having access to the server is less

  than a client limit (column 2, lines 59-67);

- determining if the current client has previously been allowed to access the server;

- providing access to the server if the total number of previous clients having access to

  the server is less than a client limit (column 2, lines 59-67);

- providing access to the server if the total number of previous clients is greater than or equal to the client limit and if the current client has previously been allowed to access the server (column 3, lines 40-55); and

- storing the unique client identifier associated with the current client in memory if access is provided to the current client (column 3, lines 11-21).

As per claims 8 and 27, Lim et al. teach the method as recited in claims 7 and 26, wherein the determining if a total number of previous clients having access to the server is less than a client limit further comprises:

- determining how many unique identifiers are stored in memory (column 3, lines 40-55); and

- comparing the number of unique identifiers in memory with the client limit (column 3, lines 40-55).

As per claim 9, Lim et al. teach the method as recited in claim 7, wherein the determining if the current client has previously been allowed to access the server is only performed if the total number of previous clients having access to the server is greater than or equal to the client limit (column 3, lines 40-55).

As per claims 10 and 28, Lim et al. teach the method as recited in claims 7 and 26, wherein the determining if the current client has previously been allowed to access the server further comprises:

- comparing the unique identifier of the current client with the unique identifiers of each previous client that has been allowed to access the server (column 10, lines 36-60);

- determining that the current client has previously been allowed to access the server if the current client identifier matches a previous client identifier (column 10, lines 36-60).

As per claim 12, Lim et al. teach the method as recited in claim 7, further comprising:

- pre-configuring the client limit (column 8, lines 60-65); and

- storing the client limit in memory (column 8, lines 60-65).

As per claim 13, Lim et al. teach the method as recited in claim 12, wherein the client limit has a pre-defined maximum to which it may be configured (column 8, lines 60-65).

As per claim 16, Lim et al. teach the method as recited in claim 7, wherein the determining the unique client identifier that is associated with the current client further comprises identifying an Internet protocol address from a data packet transmitted by the current client.

As per claim 17, Lim et al. teach the method as recited in claim 7, further comprising storing the unique client identifiers in a client table in memory (column 3, lines 11-21).

As per claim 18, Lim et al. teach the method as recited in claim 7, wherein the client identifier is a network address (column 3, lines 11-21).

As per claims 19, 31 and 40, Lim et al. teach a server that provides access to a limited

number of clients, comprising:

- memory (column 3, lines 11-21);

- a network interface configured to handle communications between the server and a

  plurality of clients (column 5, lines 1-26);

- an operating system stored in the memory (column 5, lines 1-10);

- a client limit stored in the memory, the client limit denoting a number of unique

  clients that are allowed to access the server (column 6, lines 45-54);

- an IP stack in the memory that is used to process data packets transmitted from clients

  (column 6, lines 45-50);

- a client table in the memory for storing a unique Network address for each client that

  accesses the server (column 6, lines 45-54); and

- a communications filter configured to allow access to a first client if the total number

  of clients that have accessed the server is less than the client limit, or if the total

  number of clients that have accessed the server is greater than or equal to the client

  limit and the first client has previously accessed the server (column 3, lines 20-55).

As per claim 20, Lim et al. teach the server as recited in claim 19, wherein the

Communications filter is further configured to search the client table for a first Network address

associated with the first client and determine that the first client has previously accessed the

server if the first Network address is found in the client table (column 8, lines 56-67).

As per claim 21, Lim et al. teach the server as recited in claim 19, wherein the

Communications filter is further configured to search the client table for a second Network

address associated with the first client and determine that the first client has previously accessed

the server if the second Network address is found in the client table (column 8, lines 56-67).

As per claim 23, Lim et al. teach the server as recited in claim 19, wherein the client

limit is configurable (column 3, lines 40-55).

As per claim 24, Lim et al. teach the server as recited in claim 19, wherein the

Communications filter is further configured to signal that the client limit has been exceeded and

to deny server access to the first client if the total number of clients that have accessed the server

is greater than or equal to the client limit, and the first client has not previously accessed the

server (column 8, lines 60-67).

As per claim 32, Lim et al. teach the operating system as recited in claim 31, wherein the

Communications filter is further configured to:

- allow the first client to access the operating system if the number of Network

   addresses in the client table is less then the client limit value (column 10, lines 35-

   67); and

- store the first Network address in the client table if the first client is allowed to access

   the operating system (column 10, lines 35-67).

As per claim 33, Lim et al. teach the operating system as recited in claim 31, wherein the

Communications filter is further configured to allow the first client to access the operating

system if the number of Network addresses in the client table is greater then or equal to the client

limit value and the first client has previously accessed the operating system using a second

Network address that is stored in the client table (column 10, lines 35-67).

As per claim 37, Lim et al. teach a computer-readable medium comprising

computer-executable instructions that, when executed on a computer, perform the following

steps:

- determining a first Internet Protocol (IP) address transmitted from a first client to a

    server (column 3, lines 25-35);

- searching a client table for the first Network address (column 3, lines 25-35); and

- allowing the first client to access the server if the first Network address is found in the

    client table (column 3, lines 25-35).

As per claim 38, Lim et al. teach the computer-readable medium as recited in claim 37,

further is comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed on a computer,

perform the following steps:

- determining if a client limit has been reached, the client limit indicating a total

    number of clients that can access the server (column 10, lines 48-67);

- allowing the first client to access the server if the client limit has not been reached

    (column 10, lines 48-67); and

- inserting the first Network address into the client table (column 10, lines 48-67).

As per claim 41, Lim et al. teach the computer system as recited in claim 40, wherein the

Communications filter is further configured to allow the first client to access the system if the

number of entries in the client table is greater than or equal to the client limit and if the first

client has previously accessed the system (column 8, lines 56-67).

As per claim 42, Lim et al. teach the computer system as recited in claim 41, wherein the

- Communications filter is further configured to determine if the first client has

    previously accessed the system if the first Network address is stored in the client table

    (column 8, lines 56-67).

As per claim 51, Lim et al. teach the communications protocol filter as recited in claim

45, wherein the communications protocol is an Internet protocol and the communications

protocol data packets are Internet protocol data packets (column 5, lines 49-64).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5, 6, 11, 14, 15, 22, 25, 29, 30, 34, 35-36, 39, 43, 44, 49, and 50 are objected to as

being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent

form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

"transmitting a signal to each Network address listed in the client table... if a client does not

respond to the signal, removing the second address from the client table, inserting the first

network address into the client table and processing IP data packets from the first client" and

"encrypting the client limit".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shabana Qureshi whose telephone number is (703) 308-6118. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on (703) 308-6662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

                                        Shabana Qureshi
                                        Examiner
                                        Art Unit 2155

SQ
June 13, 2004

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER